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Robert Armistead, James Balfour gent * * present George Wray, James Westwood, gent * * absent Wilson Miles Cary gent * * absent James Balfour gent * * absent Wilson Miles Cary, George Walker gent.

Warrington vs. Jeggitts—the matter of law arising on a special verdict in this cause being this day argued It seems to the court that by virtue of the Act of Assembly made &c. that the Law is for the Def^t & Judg^t for the Def^t from w^{ch} Judgment the Plt. prayed an appeal to the 19th day of the next General Court upon his entering into Bond with security between this and the next court.

STAMP ACT.

Court was held Oct. 2, 1765, and did much business. The Stamp Act went into effect Nov. 1, 1765. After that the court met January 13, 1766, laid the Levy, but did no other business. The number of tithables was 1170. No other business was transacted till June 3, 1766, when the following persons were appointed to take the tithables: Col. Wilson Miles Cary, for the town, Capt. John Tabb northside of Back River, Capt. James Wallace for the southside of Back River, Fox Hill & Strawberry Banks, Col^o Robert Armistead for Saltford's Creek.

DIARY OF COL. LANDON CARTER.

(Extracts, continued from Vol. XVIII., p. 44.)

4 Tuesday, June, 1776. I yesterday recd letters from Capt. Shields,¹ & Valentine my overseer at Rippon.² His crops are in good order as both say. But how I shall be able to pay my Parish levies I can't tell. They are laid in money at 10s a tythable. I have there 29 and no money to be got, for nobody will

¹ Captain James Shields, surveyor and escheator for York county.

² The Ripon Hall estate is in York county, between Carter's Creek and Bigler's. It was formerly the property of Edmund Jenings, Esq., Secretary of State, who came from Ripon, Yorkshire.

pay what they owe till the Courts of Justice are opened. Stories about the Dunmore fleet and gang on Gwinn's Island are many & foolish.

Col. Carter advises how to preserve summer turnip for seed. Wring off the tops when full grown, then the dirt from their roots, and pile up in form of a ridge; then dig a trench about 18 inches from the bottom row quite around the heap, or square, and as deep as to furnish earth enough to cover the heap 18 inches thick top and sides, declining one of them to the Sun; in March set the turnips out in four feet beds. By this means he was able to supply himself and others with good choice seed.

6 Thursday. Very cool and Col. Carter still wears his yarn stockings. Not satisfied with his cotton; to give it its natural growth it must be planted in May & our Mays & indeed this June has been quite cool; and if later the same cotton may be got by having it up as soon as the boles are full, then you can't make good seed. Seed difficult to get.

No great expectation of his corn in either light or stiff land, except in rich or very warm places. His servants will plant level and not in hills, which is against experience.

Tobacco seems to be our only proper staple. Small grain yet a while may do, but we seem to be growing more & more into a cold climate.

100 sheep sheared at home yielded only 267 lbs in the dirt; many of them were nearly naked, but had we sheared them sooner, with the present cold weather, many of them would certainly have died. The Fork Quarter sheep are still to shear wch is to be done tomorrow. Then Tom goes to threshing and Manuel to helping out with the Fork dung.

7 Friday, June, 1776. Warmer weather, martins & swallows chattering, has better hopes for his cotton.

Counted the Fork cotton patch. It was wide 65 yds and 75 yds. As it was drilled (to) allow a yd to every hill it makes 4875 hills. Now allow each hill to produce $1/4^1$ of picked cotton, the produce of so many hills must be 1218¹ cotton. And as this patch was drilled, it took just as much and again to plant it, in drills

as would have planted it in hills. Of course if the cotton is equal, in produce, the patch in drills must produce double the quantity of cotton as it would have done planted in hills that is 2436¹ of cotton.

The home patch by the hen house is 84 rows & 24 hills in a row which make 2046 hills wch as before in produce will be 511 lb of picked cotton. If this shd be too sanguine in expectation, suppose half that is 1/8¹ a hill & it will be a crop worth while.

Col. Carter is 67 and his son Robert Wormley Carter is 42.

8 Saturday, June, 1776. Alarmed at the want of salt, gives orders to borrow and buy if possible, and to steep all the earth of his meat house in water and then drawn off and boiled, the brine to be served the same way. He also sends a man to the river to try to boil some that way, having been informed that Tate, the projector, boiled the water at the Capitol Landing & made the salt he sent about as samples of what could be made when he set about his Proposal to each. Many of us subscribed & paid 20s. apiece. And certainly my water up here is fully as salt as that ever can be.

Possibly by all these endeavors we may so far succeed as to get salt enough to keep us. Col. Carter orders what salt he has to be beaten fine & kept in the house up stairs & given out as it is wanted. I am told my kitchen uses 3 qts a week wch is impossible to be fairly made use of. But the old saying is: Want is the Mother of Care.

The dry year ought to convince people of their error in not planting their corn in hills. When my land has been worked low agst my order, the corn is not six inches high, but where otherwise done it is even fine, notwithstanding the drought. Billy Beale for this.

Wrote to borrow 3 bushels of salt from Col. Tayloe for Butter making.

James Gordon at Crondal borrowed lime of me some days ago to tan the leather there. It was sent him.

Put up my turnip seed saved this year, the whole qty was 3

pecks & one Pottle, of wch Mr. Parker had near a Pottle, my sons Landon & John a pottle apiece. Mr. Colston to have some & the rest is to be for ourselves & friends, as we can spare it.

9 Sunday, June, 1776. My man whom I sent to boil our river water returned last night with about half a coffee cup of really good salt as to taste, and a quart of brine prodigiously strong which I have tried by evaporation this day in the Sun in a small thin or shallow dish. This is a dark reddish salt, and th^o yet quite dry yet round the edges, where fine, it appeared very white. Feels that abundant salt can be got from the water here though scarcely brackish to the taste.

11 Tells of his attempt to make salt of river water but is not very successful. Yesterday a kind of fast day at Colonel Tayloe's. I heard & read there abundance of news, but nothing very discouraging. On the contrary though it was but trifling advantageous. It seems N. Carolina have drove off Clinton and Cornwallis, as they are gone it is supposed to South Carolina, or coming here to Dunmore at Gwinn's Island, where he is intrenching. We every now & then do kill some of their men and take others prisoners.

Two of his negroes at Bluff Point reported to have gone off to Dunmore.

Colo. Tayloe had two taken sometime ago in a sloop of his that came home yesterday. They robbed the Captain of the tender of all his linen & came off in his boat. They tell us abundance of tenders to come up this river, and of the Man of War going to meet Clinton to bring him to Dunmore, but they lie, and I wish they may not have brought in their bodies the ship dis-temper, which I hear has been very fatal to blacks & whites.

12 Wednesday, June, 1776. The Mangorike cotton but just begun to be wed & tomorrow they go into their corn.

13 Thursday, June, 1776. The coolness of last night very injurious to the cotton. Sent off William Beale and Nat to inquire about the running away of his people in Northumberland.

14 Yesterday a letter from R. H. Lee from Philadelphia 2d instant. With him I had held a dispute as to the pamphleteer

Common Sense, who was contriving to bring abt an Independence from G. B. through choice, and indeed attempted it most artfully wch with men of Republican turns went down Glib. But his fancy was too conspicuous; and as this gentleman admired him, I gave my opinion freely as to the *nonsense* instead of *Common Sense* advanced. And as I saw from very early the agents in this oppression as well as their first cover the King intended to subject us to slavery, I rather chose to be compelled to Independency, rather than to ever have it out of choice, because as a constitution of government none was so good as the British, & tho we need not be under the control of its now depraved arbitrariness, yet it would be best for us to embrace the same mixed form. This he at last agrees to without owning any error in his argument, wch is *sui generis*, never to own a defeat.

15 Saturday, June, 1776. Finds that the river water affords salt by boiling or evaporation too slowly. Thinks of trying Bay salt.

16 Believes this summer is set in. Has not rained for a fortnight. On Saturday Ben from below came up with Nat and brought a small sample of the salt boiling there, very good but too dark. They took up also 120 pds of wool from 25 sheep at Norris', and from Bluff Point but a small qty.

17 Monday, June, 1776. Buys a still of Mr. John Wormeley, pays down a part and took a bill of salt in the presence of Mr. John McKay. Uses it for distilling salt water.

This evening a prodigious blessing—a fine rain.

18 All hands planting and replanting.

19 Beale came home, gives a shocking account of Pullen's mismanagement. Sold his own sheep at 12s a head, brought others which he supports at Col. Carter's place. Determines to send him off. He is the ordinary keeper's assistant at Lancaster Court House.

Norris is a little better, but he will do my business as he pleases. A large wide ridge in his corn only to be covered over with the Earth halled from the corn; not 220,000 corn hills for 27 hands, not above 145,000 tobacco hills, a middling wheat

patch; such is his management. He shall not stay another year, if he would for nothing.

Beale brought me up some of the salt wch was made there on the Bay side. It is very good, strong, and only brown, such as will do very well for meats & other common uses, and I see that with the white of Eggs I can clarify it perfectly white for table use & butter making wch shall be done. Beale says a bushel a day may be well made with a pot or two.

I sent Nat down for some of this water & have ordered the overseers there at their Peril to pursue that business, for they hardly at one plantation have a crop to tend; and at the other none at all. Makes much comment about the making of salt.

20 Thursday, June, 1776. Stiff land and dry weather never did well together since the creation, and my home cornfield shows it tho' the ground has been so vastly well watered. Barley so full of good wheat that he orders the latter to be pulled out before the barley is sheaved. The blooming of some of his hop poles show that the ground is not rich enough.

Tries to burn a tar kiln out of his old knotty pines along the creek & cove sides.

John Beale came and agreed to take Bluff Point under his care. Pullen such a rascal there I could not keep him.

25 Monday, June, 1776. Wheat has the rust. Rust is a mystery to man, and never has been explained from the days of Virgil to this time. I always remember that spells of northerly rains bring the rust, provided they are early in the year.

26 Wednesday, June, 1776. Last night after going to bed. Moses, my son's man, Joe, Billy, Postillion, John, Mulatto Peter, Tom, Panticove, Manuel & Lancaster Sam, ran away, to be sure, to Ld. Dunmore, for they got privately into Beale's room before dark & took out my son's gun & one I had there, took out of his drawer in my passage all his ammunition furniture, Landon's bag of bullets and all the Powder, and went off in my Petty Anger new trimmed, and it is supposed that Mr. Robinson's People are gone with them, for a skow they came down in is, it seems, at my Landing. These accursed villains have stolen Lan-

don's silver buckles, George's shirts, Tom Parker's new waist-coat & breeches; and yet have not touched one thing of mine, tho my door was open, my line filled with stockings and my buckles in my shoes at the door. Col. Carter attributed this to his keeping the slaves in their places. This fellow Moses, who belonged to his son, was the occasion of Col. Carter's receiving once an affront from his son (Robert Wormeley Carter) who because Col. Carter reproved him for cutting off victuals at table to give Moses, called Col. Carter "an inhuman creature to his slaves." Col. Carter had retorted with much indignation at the time, because he had never used an angry word to Moses or the deluded fellow slaves "these 6 or 7 years."

29 Saturday, June, 1776. Col Carter tells of the fugitive slaves. At 7 in the morning after their departure some minute men at Mousquito Point saw the Petty Anger with ten stout men in her going very fast on the Middlesex shore. They pursued and fired at them, whereupon the negroes left the boat and took to the shore where they were followed by the minute men. By their firing they alarmed 100 King & Queen minute men who were waiting for the Roebuck's men, should any of them come ashore there. It is supposed that Moses and many of the negroes were killed.

Joseph Harwood in treaty about my horse Nimrod brot down from Rippon. Agreed to buy him at 30 £ but must try him at first for about 5 miles. Never sent me the money, Pretending the danger of the times. Col. Carter says that Harwood who lived at Tappahannock told an untrue report of the fugitive slaves.

3 Wednesday, July, 1776. Monday at Court we heard the Kg. & Queen men below had killed a mulatto & two of the blacks out of the 8 of my people who ran away & the remaining 5 surrendered; how true it is I dont know.

Mr. Page there gave me an acct that Pat. Henry was chosen

³ John Augustine Washington, in a letter to R. H. Lee, ranked as best speakers in the Convention of 1776, "Henry, Mason, Mercer, Dandridge, and Smith." *Southern Literary Messenger*, 1859. Bartholomew Dandridge was Mrs. Washington's brother.

Gov^r in convention (by) a great majority over President Nelson, who tho' he had 45 votes was in the Election of a Council of State but the 7th man and Charles of Corotoman the 8th man. We shall now see what we shall see. Bat Dandridge, a most insignificant lawyer,³ also chosen one; this a creature of his Excellency's. Electible only 3 yrs successive, and must be out 4 yrs before reelection. I see and condemn, but as the Multitude of my city has done it I say nothing, but cannot admire the choice. I rather mourn its destructive tendency in secret.

On Sunday in the night my son Landon and one M^r Bruce, M^t of Mary^{la}, came here.

4 Thursday, July, 1776. Yesterday brot me from Jos. Harwood £30 for my horse Nimrod; one 12^l one 10^l & one 8^l note James River bank.

I hope I am not deceived when I say that this Mr. Bruce seems to be an honest and, in this instance of the American struggle, not what the diagnosis of Toryism would call a moderate man; for he seems to be quite hearty in the cause altho' a Scotchman; I have had much conversation with him detesting the behaviour of his countryman, in particular a late runegado to Gov^r Eden & Dunmore, who carried off all the slaves and servts almost out of Maryland.

Col. Carter will probably have to sell his sorrell horse and Rippon black and keep Mundungus to supply their place, for free money is only to be got that way.

Sends to Col. Tayloe for Duck grass seed, who sowed it on his poorest land and obtained a vast crop.

Stiff land on this side of the swamp now twice done hoeing & twice plowing.

In our this day's ride to my Fork, Bruce took notice of the corn being very fine and clean. He asked me how many bbls I ever made to a thousand. I told him not above 3 bbls. He said, he saw Ruffin's corn, to be sure very fine, but he had seen as good, that did not yield above 5 bbls; and Ruffin asserted that his had yielded 10 bbls. He said he even counted the stalks, & the ears on a hill, & he could not see above 10 ears at most & on many

much less. I said that was a great deal but I believe that Arithmetic would not make that 10 bbls; for 10 bbls were one with another 8000—ten ears tho 10,000, the thousand must be excessive to be every hill alike. I said many people deceived others so often that at last they deceived themselves. He said that a tent of a certain gent. up with him, was said to make 10 bbls, when the man swore that let his landlord say what he would he never turned out above 3 bbls. I observed the same in others.

5 Friday, July, 1776. Hearing so many contradictory stories about Moses and his gang, I sent Beale off this morning to get fully informed either in Lancaster, Middlesex or Gloster. I gave him 10s to bear his expenses. The Gent. made a demur abt his breeches being dirty. I told him dirty breeches are as certainly good to ride in as to stay at home in. He is to bring an acct. of Mr. J. Beale about Bluff Point & also from Norris & carry letters to both.

Yesterday another hand bill seen that Gen. Thomas & 150 men were killed & taken prisoners near the cedars at Quebeck. This I suppose to balance the former letters that Thomas had taken the whole of that party & that Carleton had sent him word if he did not exchange them he would put his prisoners to death. N. Y. can write anything and tis as likely this last hand bill was false as the other was. I can't believe others.

5 Friday, July, 1776. This express confirms the report wch J. Howe brot of the N. Y. conspiracy agst Washington the Magazine & a signal to the Enemy to land there; & says that it was discovered by a sentinel who took all the bribes given him & then informed the Genl what was doing on which he made close prisoners of above 500, Mr. Mayor, and kept the rest under strong guard. I wish this discovery true if there is a conspiracy. It is also said some highlanders are got to Dunmore. It seems that Burgoyne has got to Canada with 10,000 men & that he brot them in 70 transports, which are better than 148 in a vessel, and yet Howe took 130 sail to remove 7000 & these officers are all come on there. Believe it who will I can't. If it is true, these 10,000 have had great good luck to come 3000 miles so cooped up. But

what if they come? Are not 12000 on land already a good match for them? Depend upon it they will never come down Hudson River to do any harm unless this 100,000£ has got vastly multiplied & has flown about.

6 Saturday. The first real summer heat—for it obliges me to wear but one pair of thin stockings.

Much is said of the slavery of negroes, but how will servants be provided in these times? Those few servants that we have don't do as much as the poorest slaves we have. If you free the slaves, you must send them out of the country or they must steal for their support.

The story of Dunmore's reinforcement turns out a lie, a vessel only brot home some prisoners from Ireland.

8 Monday. A warm day. On Saturday last sowed turnips in my drilled Timothy grass field.

Pulled all my flax on Saturday by 12; we are getting it in this day.

9 July. Beale returned but brot no account of Moses and his gang. He went to the King & Queen camp on the point between Rappahannock and Pianketank and talked with the commander. They had caught other peoples negroes but not mine. Beale reported that the men who followed my people in the Petty Anger when they were driven ashore was the Towles Point guard in a boat of Burgess Ball. Col. Carter thinks they could readily have overtaken the Petty Anger if they tried.

Another report from Guthrie, "who I have a long time known to be an egregious liar," that some runaways told him that they saw some slaves who had run away from Dunmore, who told him that they saw Moses on the Island; who swore to them if he could get back he would return to his master; for Dunmore had deceived all the Poor Slaves and he never met so barbarous or so vile a fellow in all his life.

Beale owns the Captain of that guard told him the slaves were returning daily, most miserably & barbecued, and did aver the whole gang of slaves must leave the Island as soon as they could get off.

Beale tells me that when he went to ask for the Petty Anger which the minute men had taken from my People Captain Berryman with an oath refused to give it up. Col. Carter thinks that he may find himself mistaken.

12 July, 1776. Col. Carter has some comments on his cucumbers which have thousands of blossoms but no fruit. To make them bear he topped them but it did no good. He thinks, therefore, that the plants are all male plants and that he has been mistaken in supposing that each cucumber plant was both male and female.

13 Saturday, July, 1776. Nat tells us that he heard Cap^t W^mson Ball write an order to Cap^t Sallard of the minute men from Col^o P. Thornton his Col^o requiring his Comp^a instantly to march to Potowmack river, for all the fleet had left Gwyn's Island and were agst the mouth of Potowmack, as our battery had drove them all from that Island. It is imagined that they are gone to take possession of Sharpe's Island above on the Eastern Shoar.

I fancy Maryland will now begin to see their folly in not confining Eden, as the Congress directed them. Col^o Carter thinks that the going to Sharpe's Island is by his advice.

The report from our Courthouse is, that Gen^l Lee has beat Clinton in S^o Carolina a prodigious battle, drove the army all away and killed Gen^l Clinton. That our Gloster battery and forces drove Dunmore and all his fleet from Gwin's Island, sunk 6 ships, took two, and disabled the men of war so much, they were obliged to go away. That two days ago 90 of the fleet were seen agst Smith's Point in the Bay; but that yesterday all were gone to 9 vessels but where not said. God send this may be true.

By Ned Purcell from his yesterday's message we hear there is a great foundation for the report from the courthouse; for Jno. Beale writes that on Tuesday last our battery sunk one ship, quickly disabled another wch they burnt, & obliged the rest to tow out of harbor; and our men the Thursday following drove off Dunmore and made those that could escape fly to the ships for protection, leaving their cannon &c to y^e amount of some thousand pds value. John Selden met Purcell coming up and bid

tell me that Dunmore last week sent off a load of negroes to one of the Islands wch so alarm'd the rest that the county of Gloster was disturbed with their howlings. Possibly Cap^t Moses, the freeman, may be one of them to glut his genius for liberty wch he was not born to.

13 Saturday, July, 1776. News just come John Self at Rings Neck⁴ turned a Baptist, and only waits to convert my People. He had two brethren Preachers & two others with him; and says he cannot serve God and Mammon, has just been made a Christian by dipping, and would not continue in my business but to convert my people.

This a strange year about my overseers; some, horrid hellish rogues & others religious villains.⁵ Came here after dinner M^r John Selden, who told us Cap^t Burgess Ball wrote from Hampton that Patrick Henry, the late elected Governor, died last tuesday evening, So that being the day of our batterys beginning to Play on Dunmore's gang & they being routed we ought to look on those two joined as two glorious events. Particularly favourable by the hand of Providence.

14 Sunday, July, 1776. It is not many days past I heard that in the lobby of the late convention it was urged the late dignified person [Governor Henry] was the first who opened the breath of liberty to America. But it was with truth replied, and Proved that that breath was first breathed & supported by a person not then taken notice of. I know this merit is claimed also by another But I only say I never courted Public applause; and if any endeavour assists my country, I care not who enjoys the merit of it. This I am certain of, that nothing renders a man more suspected than his schemes for Popularity, and I will forever be

⁴ Ring's Neck, or "Ringfield," is located in York county on the York River. It was, about 1700, the property of Joseph Ring, a prominent settler. The ancient brick house, probably built by Ring, is still standing.

⁵ One cannot help thinking that overseers have been harshly judged. Those of Colonel Carter represented families of good standing in the Northern Neck. Because John Self, his manager at Ring's Neck, turned Baptist, he is called by Colonel Carter a "religious villain."

like the Prophet, who is only without honour in his own country, rather than be conscious of anything so base as deceiving the people, let the success be what it will. In this sense, Virtue will ever carry its own reward; and he is a Villain that aims at any thing by a lie that his conscience cannot support.

15 Monday. A report coming through Mr Colston, Col^o Peachy and Dr. Robinson, that five of his runaways were in Middlesex jail.

Last night John Beale came up. I intend to agree with him, if I can, to take Norris' plantation under his care. He says that two French, who deserted from Dunmore's camp on the Island after our people had drove them off, declared we killed abundance of their men; and that no negroes were kept by Dunmore but were fine active fellows, but were all sent away to some of the West India Islands, and out of the strong and active scarce one in ten escaped death by distempers or ill usage except when a man was wanted in his vessels. These men who are said to be great engineers and sensible further told the officers of our camp our batteries had destroyed and injured abundance of their vessels both big and small, and others were taken.

This night at 9 all Tappahannock illuminated and as low down the river as Clement's house, where Ritchie lives. What can be the Joy? There is no day particular set down in the Almanac. Certainly some great victory is obtained. Possibly Clinton's defeat is true or it may be Dunmore killed in the late engagement at the Island by way of distraction; or it may be George 3d is—

25 July, 1776. I asked Lee who came home with me if he did not remember who gave the first breath for liberty in America; he said he well remembered it; and it was an absurdity to give it to P. Henry the Gov^r, for he was not at the assembly, tho' they gave him the reputation of it. I may truly say *Hanc ego primus tentavi tulit alter honores*. This man only assisted in the resolve after the Stamp Act came in, by the advice of another.⁶

(To be Continued.)

⁶ By this concluding paragraph and by another that precedes, it is clear that Landon Carter claimed to have been the author of the resolu-

ARRIVALS FROM VIRGINIA IN 1655.

Communicated by LOTHROP WITHINGTON.*

Add. M. S. 3415.

British Museum.

5 May. Marke Warkman of London, Merchant landed at Dover y^e 4th present out of y^e Hono^r of London John Price Com-mander from Virginia and came this day to London and lodgeth at y^e house of Francis Camfield Grocer at y^e Kinges Armes in y^e Old Change in y^e pish of Augustine, and saith his voyage being ended he intendeth to remayne here.

Thomas Fenton Servt to Phillip Foster of Ratcliffe in y^e pish of Stepney in y^e Countie of Midd. landed at Dover y^e third present out of the golden Lyon of London Roger Heninges Com-

tions of November 14, 1764. In his controversy with James Mercer, Richard Henry Lee used the following language: "With confidence I appeal to many worthy gentlemen with whom I served in the General Assembly. They know who first moved in the House of Burgesses for the address to his Majesty, the memorial to the Lords and the remonstrance to the House of Commons; they also knew what part I took in preparing those papers." *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, X., 2.

In answer to this claim James Mercer, who was also a member of the Assembly, declared "Though R. H. Lee may have made the first motion for the address to the Commons, yet I do deny he first proposed the address to his Majesty and memorial to the Lords, for I well remember the late Speaker (John Robinson) proposed them, when in a committee of the whole house, as an amendment to the first motion." *Virginia Magazine*, X., 7. On the other hand, Mr. Jefferson said that the memorial to the King was drawn by the Attorney General, Peyton Randolph, and the memorial to the House of Commons, which was particularly warm, was drawn by George Wythe, Wirt, *Henry*, Appendix, Note A. In the *Southern Literary Messenger*, XXX., p. 126, are printed two resolutions found in the handwriting of R. H. Lee, one directing a memorial to the House of Commons and the other directing an address to the King. They are similar to, but not identical with, the resolutions of November 14, 1764. Col. Carter was member of the committee who were directed to draw the memorials.

* Of 30 Little Russell St., W. C., London, England.